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better appreciation of the bearings of the evidence given by the manuscripts already known.

The latter of these alternatives was brought about while Mr. Smyth's book was in press. In an article published in *The American Journal of Philology* 35. 125-148 I showed that the cumulative evidence of the papyri which contain the vulgate text enables us to designate definitely certain lines as later intruders. Some of these are included in Mr. Smyth's 13,500 lines and their rejection reduces the number below the minimum permitted by his law. To take a single example: Canto VII runs from 4.86-402 (I need not question the location of the pauses, which is advocated with great ingenuity), 317 lines, reduced to 300 by the excision of 382-398, the story of Tydeus's adventure at Thebes. But the manuscript evidence, viewed in the light of my article, renders it absolutely necessary to regard 4. 196-197 and most probably 369 as additions made to the vulgate after the middle of the second century before our era. Mr. Smyth's seventh Canto is thus reduced to 297 (298) verses; and this is fatal to the particular reconstruction of a poem of 13,500 lines which he proposes.

However, it would doubtless be possible for Mr. Smyth to frame a second reconstruction which should avoid these difficulties. It in turn would be upset by the detection of other intruding lines in the vulgate—a subject on which I hope to publish soon another article. A third reconstruction would still be equally possible, and so on until we should finally get to one consistent with the archetype of our manuscripts. Then would arise the problem of the Ptolemaic papyri—formidable, indeed, but one which I believe might also yield to a bold application of the law.

This leaves us with a dilemma. If Mr. Smyth's application of his law cannot be adapted to fit our changing knowledge of the Homeric text, it breaks down; if it can be so adapted, it refutes itself. For, it then shows merely a fact to which Mr. Smyth himself is quite alive (186) "that the handling of figures is often a delusive exercise, and that with the loose and easy syntax of the *Iliad* one could produce almost any number that one pleases by throwing out verses here and there".

I find it necessary, therefore, to dissent from the main thesis of the book. It should, however, be noted that in it Mr. Smyth has laid his hand upon one of the pressing problems of Homeric studies—the need of getting back to the original articulations of the poem. It is a problem which has been worked at by Drerup and by Bethe, but has not yet been brought to a satisfactory solution. Would that all Unitarians could see its importance and its bearings!

The whole book is so involved in its main thesis that there remains little more to say. As a critic Mr. Smyth stands upon the basis of the interpolation hypothesis of the Alexandrians which is the traditional point of view for Unitarism. I do not believe that such an hypothesis is able to account for all the data of

the problem. It is, however, better than the reactionary movement among the Unitarians which believes it can 'defend' out text exactly as it happens to be printed; not to speak of the apostolic zeal that can without discriminating laud such divergent works as Roemer's *Aristarchs Athetesen* and Drerup's *Das fünfte Buch in the same breath*.

In judging the book it is well to remember that the Homeric question is for Mr. Smyth evidently an avocation. One will then not be too hard upon the admission (179) of a historical present, nor be inclined to expect much bibliographical information. Wolf and the Teubner text are the only works printed outside of England of which I have noticed citations in Mr. Smyth's book. We may be content to find a discussion of a number of passages by a man of taste and good judgment, biassed at times by a preconceived theory, but interesting just because it springs from fresh direct contact with the text.

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY.

G. M. BOLLING.

The Gothic History of Jordanes, in English Version, with an Introduction and a Commentary. By Charles Christopher Mierow. Princeton University Press (1915). 188 pp. \$2.00.

Jordanes—or Jornandes, as we used to call him and as the French do still—compiled a history of the Goths, about 550 A. D. Its value is due almost wholly to the disappearance of his chief source, the similar history, written a generation earlier, by Cassiodorus, Theodoric's secretary. Like Paul the Deacon, Salvian, Victor of Vita, and all the other chroniclers of previous Germanic expansions, it has a peculiar timeliness just now; and it has a number of good stories, like Attila's resolve to continue his discouraging siege of Aquileia because he noticed that the storks were carrying their nestlings out of the city, in prophetic anticipation of an earlier Louvain (see *THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY* 8.208).

Jordanes's *Getica* has been translated into German, French (add to Dr. Mierow's list the Nisard [Didot] version of 1869, by Fournier de Moujan), and Swedish; but not till 1908 was it available in English, in Dr. Mierow's Princeton thesis, the outcome of a suggestion of Dean West. This translation Dr. Mierow now reprints in a revised form, with an extended Introduction, drawn largely from Mommsen, and with nearly 50 pages of Commentary, largely historical and topographical. This is interesting and enlightening, but marred by misprints, particularly in the Greek.

It is a pity that no one has worked over the text of Jordanes since Wilhelm Meyer's epoch-making rediscovery of the accentual cursus. Jordanes wrote in this rhythm, which is characterized by either two or four unaccented syllables between the last two accents of a clausula. A good example is in § 151, where the whole second sentence is rhythmical: *Trīno sī quīdem urbs ipsa vocābulo gloriātur, trigemināque positīōne exūltat, id est prīma Ravēnna, ūltima Clāssis, media Caesarēa, inter ūrbem et māre, plēna mollītiāe, harenāque minūta,*

vegetationibus apta. Mommsen (who edited Jordanes back in 1882) has frequently chosen the non-rhythmical clausula and relegated the correct cadence to the critical apparatus. It therefore follows that a reëditing of Jordanes in the light of Meyer's Law is imperative, and that Meyer's careful training in this branch of rhetoric must be considered to weaken Mommsen's theory that the mistakes in Latin in the MSS are due to the author and not to the copyists. I hope soon to recur to this topic elsewhere; I mention it here simply to point out that the text used by Dr. Mierow is far from definitive. That does not, however, invalidate the unique value of his translation, which was generally recognized on its first appearance. He has in several cases notably improved the language or the correctness of his earlier version; and it can now be heartily recommended to every student of Germanic history and medieval literature.

YALE UNIVERSITY.

CHARLES UPSON CLARK.

CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION OF PITTSBURG AND VICINITY

The fifth meeting of the Classical Association of Pittsburgh and vicinity for the year 1914-1915 was held at the Peabody High School on April 10, Miss Wilma F. Schmitz, of the South High School, made some keen observations on the teaching of Latin in her paper on The Line of Least Resistance. Professor B. L. Ullman, of the University of Pittsburgh, in a paper entitled Hermes News Service, showed how the newspaper could be utilized in the teaching of the Classics. Professor C. F. Ross of Allegheny College gave an interesting illustrated lecture on the Roman toga. For the sixth meeting the association met at the Miles Theatre, on May 15, as the guests of the George Kleine Co., to see a special performance of Julius Caesar in motion pictures. There was a large attendance, many teachers bringing some of their students.

The officers for 1915-16 are: Mr. C. R. Fisher, Allegheny High School, President; Miss Deborah E. Lovejoy, Pennsylvania College for Women, Vice-President; Dr. E. T. Sage, University of Pittsburgh, Secretary-Treasurer.

THE ANTIGONE OF SOPHOCLES IN ENGLISH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

On May 15 the Greek Club of the University of Mississippi presented the Antigone of Sophocles, in Plumptre's translation. Of the performance Professor A. L. Bondurant wrote as follows:

The setting was severely simple in keeping with the classic tradition. The stage was arranged with curtains on either side, with curtains taking the place of the rear wall. . . . The costumes were carefully studied, and each actor was appropriately garbed.

There was no curtain, and with the exception of brief musical interludes the action was continuous. . . . The performance was a most creditable one in all respects. . . . So far as the writer knows this is the first performance of a Greek play in the State.

THE CAPTIVI IN LATIN AT MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

On April 20 the Captives of Plautus was given in Latin at Mount Holyoke College. The cast was chosen from students who had been reading the play in course, chiefly Sophomores. The result was excellent. The performers entered heartily into the story and brought out the salient points. The two prominent characters, Hegio and Ergasilus, were especially well done. The prologue was spoken slowly and distinctly: so that many of the audience could understand the Latin fairly well. In the rest of the play much use was made of gesture and pantomime. At no time did the audience seem in any way uninterested.

The costuming, which was thoroughly satisfactory, was largely of home production, supplemented by the rental of some necessary articles from a costumer. The back scene, representing the traditional houses with doors, was painted by one of the art students of the College. The side scenes were sketches of Italian scenery. The cost of the production, about forty dollars, was met by a small admission fee, which also gave a balance for departmental use for slides and photographs.

The members of the Department feel that the value of the work has been considerable, not only to those taking part, but also to the other students who have read the play, and finally to all Latin students who were in the audience.

HELEN M. SEARLES.

THE NEW YORK LATIN CLUB

The first meeting of the New York Latin Club for 1915-1916 will be held on Saturday, November 6, at Hunter College, Lexington Avenue, 68th to 69th Streets, New York City. An informal reception at 11.30 will be followed by luncheon, to be served promptly at noon. After luncheon, Professor Walter Dennison will deliver an illustrated lecture on The Military Operations of Julius Caesar in France and Belgium. It is hoped that every classical teacher in New York City and its vicinity who has not yet become identified with this Club will do so this year. For further information about the Club, the dates of the later luncheons, prices, etc., application may be made to the Treasurer, Dr. William F. Tibbetts, of Curtis High School, New Brighton, Staten Island.

JANE GRAY CARTER, *Censor*.